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Auditors Want to Drop 'CIA' From Card

When terrorists captured Charles Kapar, an auditor for the Agency for International Development (AID), and held him hostage on a Kuwaiti airliner last December, they found a card in his wallet that bore the letters "CIA."

It indicated Kapar's membership in the Institute of Internal Auditors and his qualifications as a "certified internal auditor."

As a result, the Washington chapter of the auditors' institute passed a resolution last month calling on the IIA's board of regents to "immediately take action to change the name of the internal auditor certification program to provide a different acronym for professional designation which will not endanger

the lives of internal auditors." Kapar had described his ordeal to the group at their February meeting.

AID officials said they are preparing new security guidelines for auditors traveling abroad.

"I would have to say that this card could have contributed to the confusion," said an AID spokesman.

Kapar and American businessman John Costa were tortured for six days while the jetliner sat on the ground at the Tehran airport. Two other AID auditors, who, AID officials said, were not carrying the same identification card, were killed by their captors during the first day of the siege. Kapar and Costa eventually were rescued.

—Myron Struck